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W. Beaumont, notes on a woman with breast cancer. April 1819

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to dissect it away ~~the~~ pursuing the dissection deep into
the axilla among the plexus of nerves & blood vessels even
to the last filament by which it was attached to the
~~base of the axilla~~ - by the use of a hook, however
which I hooked into the gland & raised up from I was
able to take it away without dividing any very important
artery. & when I did divide were ~~only~~ secured as the
went along - The Substoma taken away was the size of the
Beethoven's ~~egg~~ ^{egg} & as hard as cartilage - After waiting a few
minutes for the woman to revive a little, I proceeded to
dissect away the mammae. I commenced the first cut
at the lower extremity of the axilla ~~incision~~ ^{incision}, or rather
resumed that incision & continued it in a similar
~~course~~ ^{course} obliquely ^{towards} downward, the incision extending on
the outside of the areola & diseased skin for about
four inches, ending at a point ~~very~~ nearly perpendicular with
the nipple. I then commenced at the place from where
I continued the last stroke & made a similar cut on
the inside of the areola & nipple & sent the skin at
the ~~protest~~ below, in cluding within the incisions ~~which~~
~~were in the shape of a parenthesis~~ all the diseased ~~in by means~~
about 4 inches long ^{diverging at their widest distance 2 1/2 inches} ~~in an oblique~~
direction from the axilla towards the ~~acromioclavicular~~ ^{acromioclavicular} cord.
After dividing these the integuments in this direction, I dissected
away the lateral flaps about 1 1/2 line each & then began
at the ~~to~~ superior portion of the mammae. I dissected downwards
& securing the arteries as they were secured, including all the
mammary gland & coming to to the pectoral muscle. ~~the~~
& founding that ~~it~~ ^{it} cleared & firmly adhering to the gland
I dissected & took away all the diseased portion of the ~~gland~~ ^{gland}
which was nearly 2 inches ~~thick~~ ^{thick} & the whole ~~thick~~ ^{thick} before & that too extremely
cloudy & hazardless in the underlating - She being in a low
state of health, with a general ~~disorder~~ ^{disorder} ~~her~~ ^{her} body
at the age of about ~~forty~~ ^{forty} years. The mammary gland
hard as cartilage - large as a man's fist - & evidently ^{attached} ~~by~~

In the month of August 1818, I was consulted by Doct B. J. Alcock. on a case of an indurated Mammary gland in the breast of Mrs S. C. Plate wife. who had been, as I then understood, labouring under some little inconvenience from a lump in the right breast for about a year, with very little pain or swelling, & no evident cause for its appearance, not having been sensible of any injury received, & unfortunately learned that it might terminate in something serious. Doct Alcock. here proposed by him it and advised her to the use of the common means of repelling tumors. which she had occasionally applied with little or no benefit. At this time finding at this time the body of the tumor to be very hard, small, & in the center of the mamma. Slightly elevated above the surface. with the cellular bulgatae & lactiferous vessels considerably thickened and distended, I was apprehensive it was terminal in Schirrus or Cancer if something more effectual was not applied immediately, & accordingly advised the use of A.C.T. of Cal & Colic, & internally compound friction & plaster. stimulating embrocations & emollient fomentations externally - which were applied & strictly continued for 6-8- or 10 months. but to very little effect. Cold showering to the breast followed by friction with warm Spirits or Brandy. & the frequent use of a strong decoction of Pyrola Umbellata [Prunella-spin] had as much effect as any thing that had been tried. but all these seemed to do no more than to correct the health of the system generally. without this the tumor sadly disappointed, for after dissecting it, was closely enveloped in a firmly adhering to the surrounding cellular membrane vessels of the axilla. & attached to the edge of the pectoral muscle. from which I had carefully

[illegible]

to the Pectoral muscle - the axilla gland the size of
a button - deep seated & lying justly under the
edge of the pectoral muscle - ~~very~~ hard & very little
movable in appearance appalling to the Surgeon
almost forbidding an attempt to operate with rational
expectations of success & discouraging even to hope!
But, after mature ~~consideration~~ ~~deliberation~~
it was resolved upon to operate & ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~13th~~ ~~of~~ ~~April~~ ~~1819~~ ~~at~~ ~~11~~ ~~A.M.~~ ~~in~~ ~~company~~ ~~with~~ ~~the~~ ~~request~~ ~~of~~ ~~Dr.~~ ~~Hall~~ ~~&~~ ~~friends~~
the 13th of April 1819 at 11 A.M. ~~in~~ ~~company~~ ~~with~~ ~~the~~ ~~request~~ ~~of~~ ~~Dr.~~ ~~Hall~~ ~~&~~ ~~friends~~
operation under the most gloomy circumstances and
unfavorable prospects, with ~~that~~ ~~an~~ ~~acute~~ ~~sense~~ ~~of~~
that awful responsibility, which ^{but} few ever felt & none
can ever describe - with the life of a valuable
man in my hands, with dismal appearances & deluded
hopes & uncertain means of preserving ^{it} even for the shortest
space - with the ^{risk} ~~danger~~ of a professional reputation, & the
dangers of public censure & condemnation staring
me full in the face I commenced the operation!
I thank to the almighty disposer of events, I succeeded
almost to a miracle in safely anticipating such anxiety
without difficulty or confusion & the patient is now
(~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~best~~ ~~condition~~) ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~best~~ ~~condition~~ ~~known~~ ~~more~~ ~~comfortable~~ ~~than~~ ~~in~~
our most hopeful moments we could have antici-
-pated -- I began my operation ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~axilla~~
by making an incision from high up in the axilla
& continuing it ^{downwards & forwards 3 inches} ~~obliquely~~ ~~through~~ ~~the~~ ~~integument~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~
Second Strata of the Scalp I went down to the gland
by ~~proving~~ ~~was~~ ~~to~~ ~~find~~ ~~it~~ ~~enveloped~~ ~~in~~ ~~a~~ ~~capsule~~ ~~&~~ ~~to~~
be able to turn it out with the fingers; but in
this ~~the~~ ~~was~~ ~~very~~ ~~sadly~~ ~~disappointed~~, for after dissecting
~~around~~ ~~the~~ ~~outer~~ ~~hemisphere~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~tumor~~ ~~down~~ ~~to~~ ~~its~~
I made an other attempt to turn it out, but in vain
it was closely enveloped in a firmly adhering to the surround-
ing cellular membrane & vessels of the axilla & attached to ^{the} ~~under~~
edge of the pectoral muscle - from ~~2~~ ~~I~~ ~~had~~ ~~carefully~~

The ~~whole~~ substance taken away weighed 5 ounces - the ~~body~~ of which was as hard as cartilage, though more resembling it. In the center was a small matrix or cavity as large as a coffee grain or common bean filled with a yellow mucus, viscous fluid. ~~which~~ ~~from~~ & from ~~which~~ cavity there was a small fistula leading directly into the external canal. Through which this fluid was constantly going - the smaller gland of the axilla had a similar appearance in the center but had no deposition of fluid matter or passage from its back of its cavity had the ^{internal} structure & appearance of an original lymphatic gland. It ^{resembled} the usual appearance of cellular & glandular tissue & ~~the appearance of the~~ ~~effect of~~ the ~~effect of~~ the constant irritation of the curved fluid contained in its center -

After removing the glasses, securing the bleeding vessels,
giving the woman a little cordial drink, & waiting
a few hours for any untoward effects to bleed, if
any there were unobserved. The procedure to
wipe & dry the flaps & put them merely in contact
with adhesive strips. then lay on ^{graduated} compresses of
lint. & apply the ~~T. Bandage~~ ^{to the} Chest.
~~It was in situ, placed by a part of the T bandage~~
I leave her in bed where she remained &
continued to be in good condition, with no
more general ^{or local} symptoms of inflammation than
~~with the use of any to produce adhesion of the~~

~~less of the ward~~ - by the first intention

The operation was ^{excruciatingly} ~~extremely~~ painful & protracted, yet she endured it without a struggle, without fainting & without a murmur. & almost without a groan, bearing the most painful operation that can possibly be performed on the human frame with the peace fortitude of a Christian & ^{the faith} ~~the faith~~ of a martyr & resignation of a saint.

The patient bore the operation with more fortitude
than could be expected from the debilitated
state of his health & the extreme anxiety and uncertainty
of removing the disease wholly

The above statement I admit to be correctly
comporting with my feelings & opinion

a irritation through the night. - 3^d day. no recurrence
of the sepsis. Some slight sensations of chill about
11. or 12. o'clock. Succeeded by a fever & symptoms similar
to those of the day before. gave this day a cast^e infusion
of Salt. Senna & astringent. Operated in 3 or 6 hrs
& gave relief. gave Spts. clindennie. every 2 hrs
also. Sol. citra. 10 grs. - Gum. Arabic 5 grs. every 4 hrs
Keep the inflamed parts wet with Goulard's ext^t
Spts & water - gave a pill of Castor & opium
2 grs each occasionally to procure quiet rest & sleep
which had the desired effect. not tolerable -
considerable coat on the conjung. of a yellowish
brown. but not dry - some pain in the head back
& fore. 4th Day. had a very night's rest. but little
heat or pain in the wounded parts. dressed the
wound. found it in most excellent condition.
having adhered by the first intention the whole extent of
the wound. except one small part the size of a goose quill
where a little greenish blood was dripping from the wound

No suppurative symptoms occurred, at all, no nervous
irritation, although she had ever been of very
nervous & irritable habit, - no secondary hemorrhage
appeared, or any thing more than the common
symptoms of inflammation, usually attendant on extensive
wounds in healthy subjects, - the first 12 hrs after
the opⁿ there was no considerable swelling or tension
of the parts or severe pain, the 2^d day some consider-
able increased arterial action was observed & arterial
red refrigerants - about 11 o'clock the 2^d day, or 24
hrs after the opⁿ she experienced a slight
chill with some general rigors, which lasted for
half an hour, & was succeeded by a mild fever
attended with the common symptoms of a mild
intermittent - as thirst, heat, slight pains in head &
loins, which continued for 10 - or 12 hours & then
disappeared. 3^d day, leaving her pretty free from fever
or irritation through the night. - 3^d day, no recurrence
of the rigors. Some slight sensations of chill about
11, or 12 - o'clock, succeeded by a fever & symptoms similar
to those of the day before - gave this day a cath^e infusion
of Selt. Soda & administered. Operative in 5 or 6 hrs
& gave relief - gave Spts. clindennie, every 2 hrs
10. Selt. citric. 10 grs - Gum. Arabic 5 grs. every 4 hrs
Keep the inflamed parts wet with Goulard's ext^t
Spts & water - gave a pill of Spts. clindennie
2 grs each occasionally to procure quiet rest & sleep
which had the desired effect. not tolerable -
considerable cast on the conjung^t of a yellowish
brown, but not dry - some pain in the head back
& sore. 4th Day. had a very night's rest, but little
heat or pain in the wounded parts, dressed the
wound, found it in most excellent condition,
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~~lead~~ & from which cavity there was a small fistula
leading directly into the external os. Through which
the fluid was constantly oozing - the smaller gland of
the axilla had a similar appearance in the center but
had no deposition of fleshy matter or passage from it
back of its cavity had the ^{internal} structure & appearance of an
original lymphatic gland. The induration around had
the ~~appearance of the usual appearance of cellular~~ ^{resembled the usual appearance of cellular} ~~the effect of the fluid~~ ^{granular solid}
& the effect of the constant irritation of the accumulated
fluid contained in its center.

After removing the glands, securing the bleeding vessels,
giving the woman a little cordial drink, & waiting
a few hours for any internal vessels to bleed, if
any there were unsecured. The procedure to
wipe & dry the flaps & put them merely in contact
with adhesive strips. then lay on ^{gradually} compresses of
lint & applied the ~~I bandage~~ ^{to the chest} ~~the chest~~
~~steps in it, place by a part of the I bandage~~
band in it where the wound is
contented to be in good condition, with no
more general ^{or local} symptoms of inflammation than